
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MAY NEWSLETTER

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Well the fishing up north was good, but the wind meant we couldn't always fish, just had to catch crabs, relax and try out every sandfly repellent known.

In news that broke while I was away there were cases of tick fever in cattle in the Lorne/Kendall area. Tick fever is spread by the Queensland cattle tick, which are sprayed for at border stations when cattle are taken from the infected zone in Qld.

When the ticks get here and drop off an infected animal they lay their eggs in the grass and hatch up to 3,000 eggs per female tick, and these turn into larvae that can survive on the grass for up to a year

without attaching. Then a cow comes by, the larvae attach, go through a couple of stages and become adult ticks.

The ticks can carry several different organisms, blood parasites, that cause disease, particularly in unexposed animals with no immunity. A bit like Theileria on steroids but worse !

Red urine, fever, abortions, weakness, pale gums, depression, jaundice, death are all symptoms, and the remaining cattle can be a source of infection. Treatment is complicated, and vaccination can be done.

Quarantine of surrounding properties, movement restrictions, inspections and tracing have begun. Two properties have had deaths, a devastating 69 head on one the last I heard. The source of the ticks is suspected but has not yet been confirmed. Biosecurity is important to everyone.

Had a case of tetanus in a calf this month, 5 days after a castration ring had been applied in an unvaccinated animal. 5 in 1 or 7 in 1 vaccine prevents this. I think rings have lots of advantages, nothing bleeds to death, but hygiene and vaccination are always important no matter which method is used.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
eye cancers
lamenesses
buffalo fly
prolapses, both types
tetanus

And in the Horses.....

We had another horse this month with neurological symptoms. These can be caused by injury, Wobbler syndrome, some insect borne viruses, tumours, bacterial infections and Hendra.

As we go into winter we become a little more conscious of Hendra virus as that's when most cases have occurred. Neuro and respiratory symptoms are most common but the symptoms are many and varied. To date 102 horses have died as well as four of seven people infected. But, in good news debunking a myth, a recent study of 1154 racehorses over 12,066 starts showed no difference in performance between pre and post vaccination.

Every month in the list of diseases below, colic cases are noted, mostly mild cases and rarely do they need to go for referral surgery. This month we had a colic with a high heart rate, sweating, few gut sounds, in short didn't look good. Referral was discussed and decided against, so pain relief was given and antiinflammatories. Two hours later the horse was normal and it has completely recovered. Horses are very sensitive to changes in feed but perform well with us (or despite us) giving them a wide variety of feeds and additives.

Horse Diseases of the Month

colics

cuts

lamenesses

Cushings disease

choke

Horses will carry the Qld cattle tick but it's extremely unlikely they'll get disease

RUN DATES FOR MAY

LANSDOWNE.....THURS 3RD

OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....TUES 8TH

HANNAM VALE.....THURS 10TH

DYER'S CROSSING.....TUES 15TH

WINGHAM.....THURS 17TH

LORNE/COMBOYNE.....TUES 22ND

COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....THURS 24TH